

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 30, 2008. Claims 17 to 27 and 33 to 36 are pending in the application, of which Claims 17, 18, 20, 26 and 33 to 36 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,818,455 (Stone). Claims 14 to 16, 21 to 25 and 27 to 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Stone in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,907,095 (Komura).

Applicant has amended the claims to place allowable claims 17, 18, 20 and 26 into independent form and change dependency of claims 21 to 25 and 27. In addition, claims 1 to 16 and 28 to 32 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Newly added claims 33, 34 and 35, 36 are corresponding apparatus and medium claims of amended claims 17 and 18, respectively.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed to be due. However, should it be determined that additional fees are required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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